



Aquarium Animals and Plants Don't Belong in the Wild

It is estimated that one in ten U.S. households has an aquarium or water garden. It is an interesting hobby with often beautiful results. The variety of plants and animals available to populate a home aquarium is vast, but most of these species are not native to Missouri and some have the potential to cause irreversible harm to aquatic ecosystems if released. The snakehead fish and rusty crayfish are two examples of aquarium releases that have had devastating consequences. Follow the advice below to make sure that you are not responsible for the next invasive species nightmare.

Most people understand that they should not release fish into a stream or lake. Some even know that it is illegal to do so, but faced with having to kill the fish, people sometimes choose to "set them free." Sadly, aquarium fish that are "set free" are likely to die – usually by the slow process of starvation or cold. Even worse, if the fish does survive and reproduce, entire ecosystems could be in danger. If another home cannot be found, the only responsible way to dispose of a fish is euthanasia. The same goes for all aquarium animals including snails, mussels, crayfish, frogs, turtles, and snakes.

Water, rock, and plants from aquariums may harbor invisible organisms such as larvae, seeds, diseases and parasites. Nothing from an aquarium should be dumped into a water body or storm drain. Even toilets and bath drains can transport exotic species. Use the water on your garden or lawn. Bury unwanted rock, sediment and dead animals. Plants should be burned or sealed in a plastic bag and sent to a landfill.

What about native critters that have been kept as pets? It is still a bad idea to release them; even if you return them to same spot where they were captured. Animals that have been kept in captivity often have diseases, fungi and parasites that can spread to wild stock. Only collect a wild animal if it is legal to do so, you know how to care for it and intend to keep it for its lifespan.

BY SARAH PEPPER, Fisheries Management Biologist

A Helping Hand to Manage Your Land

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

Saturday, March 2, 2013
8:30 AM–4 PM

The first day-long workshop teaches management techniques for wildlife habitat on private land focusing on both fields and wooded areas. A follow-up workshop will be held at St. Peter's University Extension Center on March 9 and will focus on streams, ponds and nuisance species. The cost for both days is \$25 or register for one day for \$15. Lunch and course materials will be provided to all attendees on both days. Contact the St. Peter's University Extension Center at 636-970-3000 for more information and to register.

Pallid Sturgeon – Dinosaur Fish

The Story of an Endangered Species on its way to recovery!

Program at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

March 9 • Friday • 7 PM

(Ages 10 and up)



Learn about the pallid sturgeon and its incredible journey from a path of extinction to increasing abundance in Missouri's large rivers from Missouri Conservation Department Resource Scientist Dave Herzog. (Call 314-301-1500 for reservations.)

An endangered species is one that occurs in such small numbers it is in danger of extinction. One of the main causes is often human activity. The pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), was listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 1990. In 1992, Missouri Department of Conservation produced the first hatchery-reared pallid sturgeons in the world at Blind Pony Hatchery. Since then, state and federal hatcheries have produced pallid sturgeon for stocking into rivers where the fish once thrived. Like the American bald eagle, the pallid sturgeon could be another endangered species that is someday removed from the endangered species list.

Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • mdc.mo.gov/node/299



From the east/St. Louis
I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269.
Left over highway 44 to Antire Road. Right on
Antire. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into
driveway.

From the west/Eureka
I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269.
Follow exit lane around to top.

HOURS:

May 1–August 31
Wednesday: 1–7:30 PM
Thursday–Sunday: 10 AM–4:30 PM
September 1–April 30
Wednesday–Sunday: 10 AM–4:30 PM

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email henges.range@mdc.mo.gov with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. If calling, leave a detailed message on ext. 21. Reservations will be accepted beginning at 12:00 AM on the day of registration. You will be contacted for confirmation. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Women's Basic Handgun, Part 1 and 2

March 7 and 9 • Thursday • 6–8 PM
and Saturday • 8–9:30 AM
(Ages 16 and up)

This two-part women's program will include handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We start with a classroom session on Thursday evening, then a live-fire session on Saturday morning. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin at 12:00 AM on February 7.)

Trigger Time – Handgun

March 16 • Saturday • 8:30–9:30 AM
(Ages 18 and up)

Trigger Time is "hands-on" personal instruction designed to make you a better marksman. There is no classroom time, just expert one-on-one instruction from one of our highly qualified staff. This is not a beginners program.

Participants are required to provide their own handguns and ammunition (at least 100 rounds). (Reservations begin at 12:00 AM on February 16.)

Wild Turkey Hunting 101

March 19 • Tuesday • 6–8:30 PM
(All ages)

Our spring wild turkey season is right around the corner. We'll discuss hunting wild turkeys including biology, habitat, hunting regulations, and appropriate firearms and ammunition. We'll demonstrate and practice turkey calling, discuss blinds and set-ups, and use of decoys. This is Wild Turkey Hunting University! (Reservations begin at 12:00 AM on February 19.)

Basic Shotgun

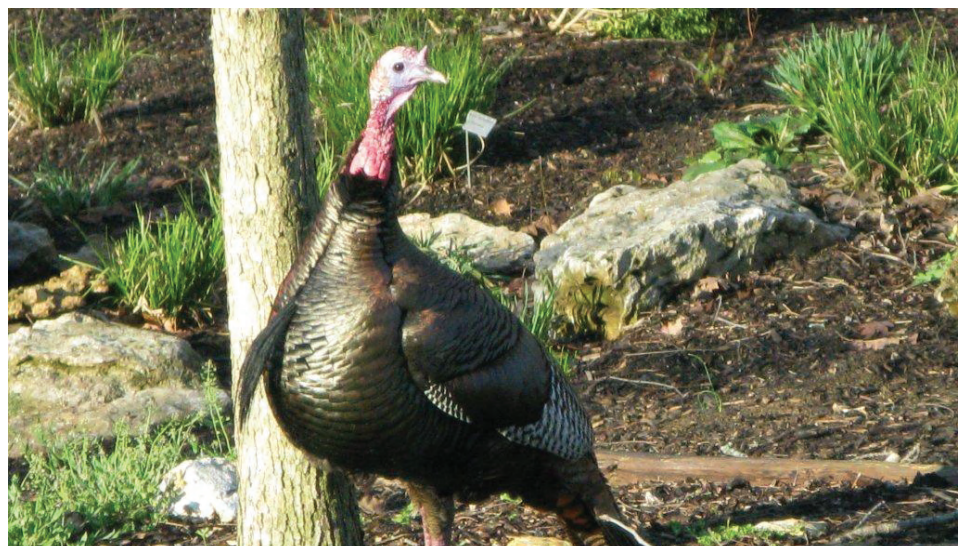
March 23 • Saturday • 1–3:30 PM
(Ages 11 and up)

This is an introductory program for beginning shooters who want to learn the correct way to get started in shotgun sports. We will discuss appropriate shotguns, correct fit, gauge and ammunition selection, proper stance, mount, movement, and vision. All participants will have an opportunity to break some clay targets after the classroom portion of the program. The shooting portion of this program is not appropriate for children under 90 lbs. weight. (Reservations begin at 12:00 AM on February 23.)

Youth .22 Rifle

March 30 • Saturday • 8–9:30 AM
(Ages 9–15)

Interested young people who have never had experience shooting .22 rifles are invited to participate in a Saturday morning session learning safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 rimfire rifles in a controlled, safe environment. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment are provided. (Reservations begin at 12:00 AM on March 1.)



Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/270

Basic Handgun

March 6 and 7 • Wednesday and Thursday • 6–9 PM and March 9 • Saturday • 7:30–9:30 AM

(Ages 16 and up with a parent or adult)

This program is designed to teach students how to safely and successfully handle and shoot a handgun. On March 6 there will be a clinic at the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms from 6–9 PM, we will discuss safety, various handgun actions, calibers, grip, stance, and sight picture. Then on March 7 from 6–8 PM, we will meet at the Busch Shooting Range for some live fire practice. We will provide .22 handguns and ammunition for the range session. On Saturday, March 9 from 7:30–9:30 AM students can return to the range for more live fire practice using firearms of different actions and calibers that we provide, or you may bring your own. This is a basic handgun class, and you must attend the clinic in order to participate in the live fire. (Reservations begin February 6.)



Quail Clinic and Hunt for Youth and Women

March 14 and 16 • Thursday • 6–8 PM and Saturday • 8 AM–3 PM

(Ages 11 and up with a parent or adult)

This is the next step for hunters who have previously attended the Youth, or Women's pheasant hunts with the Busch Shooting Range. On March 14 from 6–8 PM we will start with a quail clinic at the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. We will go over safety, habitat, clothing, firearms, ammunition, and hunting bobwhite quail. On March 16 we will meet at the Wil-Nor Hunt Club, located in Dittmer MO, where you will go on an actual quail hunt behind pointing dogs. The youth portion of the hunt will be from 8–11 AM, and the women's will be from 12–3 PM. You must have previously taken part in either the youth or women's pheasant hunts that were held at the Busch Shooting Range, and be Hunter Education certified to qualify for this program. (Reservations begin February 14.)

Turkey Calling and Hunting Techniques

March 20 • Wednesday • 6–8 PM

(Ages 11 and up with a parent or adult)

Gobble, gobble, gobble. What does it all mean? Come join us to learn some tips and techniques for turkey hunting. We will cover safety, habitat, firearms, ammunition and patterning. Students will also learn about different calls, when to call, how often, and the different types of equipment used. This program will be held in the classrooms at the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office. (Reservations begin February 20.)

Modern Sporting Rifle

March 21 • Thursday • 6–9 PM

(Ages 11 and up with a parent or adult)

This program is designed to teach students how to safely and successfully handle and shoot the modern sporting rifle. We will cover topics such as safety, hunting, various actions, calibers, and sight picture. This class will be held at the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin February 21.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

December 1–March 31

Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM

April 1–November 30

Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM and Tuesday: 2–8 PM

Programs are free. Call **(636) 441-4554**

Monday through Friday 8 AM–5 PM.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt and fish.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271



The Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center is located in Kirkwood, MO. Take Highway 44 east to the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow for one mile to the entrance. Enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through oak hickory forest.

Building: Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

Trails: Daily: 8 AM–8 PM DST

8 AM–6 PM CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

You and Me Under the Canopy

March 5 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM

(Ages birth–8)

Families, meet in the nature center lobby at 10 AM for a “nature” adventure. Make sure to dress for the weather because we won’t be in the building long. Everyone will hike with the naturalist to a special place in the forest and enjoy a nature story under the canopy. In case of inclement weather the program will be shortened to 30 minutes. (Registration is not required.)

Pallid Sturgeon - Dinosaur Fish

March 8 • Friday • 7 PM

Please see details on the front page.

Scout Discovery Table: State Symbols

March 9 • Saturday • 8 AM–4:30 PM

(All ages)

This is a self-guided discovery table. Check out the many natural objects that are symbols representing the state of Missouri. The activities apply toward the Brownies *Celebrating Community Badge*, Wolves *Your Flag* (Achievement 2d), and Bears *What Makes America Special?* (Achievement 3e). The activity can usually be completed in 45 minutes. (Registration is not required.)

Bluebirds of Missouri

March 15 • Friday • 5:30 – 7:30 PM

(Families ages 5 and up)

Have a zip-a-dee-doo-dah day at Powder Valley as you explore the life of one of Missouri’s state symbols, the bluebird. Bluebirds are used as symbols of hope, spring and happiness. The sky is the limit when it comes to interesting facts about these popular birds. Bring the entire family for a fun evening of investigation, a short hike and craft. (Reservations begin March 1.)

Spring Hike at Emmenegger Nature Park

March 23 • Saturday • 9:30–11:30 AM

(Families ages 7 and up)

Spring has arrived! Let’s see what’s happening in nature by hiking the beautiful trails at Emmenegger Nature Park. We’ll look for wildflowers and birds, and get a great view of the Meramec River. Be prepared to hike approximately 1.5 miles, on sometimes steep and difficult terrain. To get to Emmenegger Nature Park, go west on Cragwold Road (past the Powder Valley entrance), cross over the highway and go south (left) on Stoneywood. Please meet at the pavilion. The entire program will be outdoors, so please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin March 9.)

Delightful Deer

March 26 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 AM

(Ages 7 and up)

How delighted we are to walk in the woods and come across wild deer! Here at Powder Valley the deer may appear to be delightfully tame but they are still wild animals. Please leave them alone to live their wild lives in their own way, and especially please leave their little babies alone. Even if Mom has been gone a long time, she is definitely coming back for them! In today’s program we will learn more about the hidden lives of wild deer. That knowledge will make us even more delighted the next time we see them. Younger siblings are welcome, or they may register for Mammalogy for Minis and go with their parents to that program instead. (Reservations begin March 12.)

Mammalogy for Minis

March 26 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 AM

(Age 3–6)

Walk in the tracks of a deer... burrow like a mole! Become a different mammal by observing and behaving like several Missouri mammals. Explore mammal traits and hike to find some furry residents of Powder Valley. (Reservations begin March 12.)

Nature’s Recyclers

Two separate sessions available:

March 26 • Tuesday • 12:30–2 PM

March 27 • Wednesday • 6–7:30 PM

(Families ages 5 and up)

What do you recycle? Soda cans? Newspaper? Plastics? What does nature do with its “trash?” We will discuss the tenacious little critters that help to keep Missouri clean, and then we will go for a hike to try to catch some of these guys in action. After that we will come back inside to make our own composting worm bin to take home. (Reservations begin March 12 for both sessions.)

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271

Music from the Ozarks



On Friday, March 22 at 7 PM Powder Valley will feature a musical tribute to the Ozarks, focusing on traditional music, history and storytelling, inspired by the Scots-Irish people who settled and survived in a hardscrabble landscape.

This feature is presented by the duo of Mike and Tenley, seasoned multi-instrumental musicians, and includes a special tribute presented to the late Douglas county fiddler, Bob Holt. Holt was a recipient of Smithsonian's Heritage Award for his teaching of traditional Ozark square dance fiddle. Original music composed by Mike and Tenley was inspired by Aldo Leopold, known as the father of conservation and author of *A Sand County Almanac*.

Mike is an Ozark fiddler and the author of *Fiddles and Forests* and *Voices of the Hills*. CDs produced by MDC. (Call 314-301-1500 for reservations.)

Hallway Exhibit Photography by Shauna Scribner

Shauna Scribner resides in Collinsville, IL. Photography has been her hobby for the past three years. Landscapes and wildlife are her favorite points of interest to photograph. Active portraits (subject is photographed actively participating in his/her interest/hobby) are an area she also enjoys. For information contact sascribner@mac.com.



Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • mdc.mo.gov/node/272



From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Blvd, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left. Continue on Lindell past Union Dr. to Cricket, turn left. Take first right onto Grand Ave. The visitor's center is on the right.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM

Programs are free. Call 314-877-1309 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Salamanders: Life in the Shadows

March 27 • Wednesday • 9–10 AM
(Ages 3–6)

Salamanders are seemingly odd creatures. They spend most of their days under leaf litter, rocks, logs, and other little nooks and crannies which humans tend to overlook. For these small amphibians, the decaying forest floor is a great place to munch on beetles, worms, grubs and other tiny critters. Then, as late winter turns to early spring rains, some "sallies" start moving. Let's learn about these intriguing animals before we venture outside to discover salamanders and life in the shadows. Dress for the weather. Meet at the Dennis & Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center. (Reservations begin March 11.)

Beginner Photography

March 10 • Sunday • 8–10 AM
(Ages 15 and up)

Do you have a camera and love to take pictures? Do you love the natural world? If so, this program is for you. Join us for a morning session of photography for beginners. We will discuss some photography techniques and then head out into Forest Park to try and capture nature at its best (Reservations begin February 25.)

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • mdc.mo.gov/node/298



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM

Saturday–Sunday: 8 AM–4 PM

Programs are free. Call 314-877-6014 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

It's That "Tine" of Year!

March 2 • Saturday • 9 AM–noon

(Ages 8 and up)

It's time to get excited for this year's shed season! Come on out for the third annual shed hunt at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area and learn all about those highly sought after antlers. You will learn what they are, how they grow, and what they are used for. Most importantly, we'll search for the famously elusive antlers as they make like snow and melt away into the landscape. This "tine" of year only comes around, well, once a year. So don't miss it! Dress for the weather and wear good walking shoes. (Reservations begin February 16.)

Tots on the Trail: Seeds!

March 9 • Saturday • 10–11:30 PM

(Ages 3 and up)

What floats, hitchhikes, pops, or sometimes flies? Seeds! Discover where they come from and what they do. We will spend time both indoors and out to look for seeds, investigate them with a magnifying glass, dissect fruit, and experiment with planting. Dress for the weather and getting dirty. (Reservations begin February 23.)

Stones and Steel: The Basics of Knife Sharpening

March 10 • Sunday • 1–3 PM

(Ages 7 and up)

Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt and fish. After a successful day afield, when it is time to clean fresh fish or game, a sharp knife is a vital tool. While it is not rocket science, there are a few tricks to putting a good edge on your favorite knife using a basic sharpening stone. We will provide the stones and you can bring along your favorite hunting or filleting knife (straight blade, non-serrated). Participants under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin February 24.)

Pirates of Columbia Bottom: Intro to Geocaching

March 16 • Saturday • 1–3 PM

(Families)

Bring the whole family to Columbia Bottom to be modern day pirates through the outdoor sport of geocaching! This adventurous outdoor activity ties both technology and nature together – great for all ages. Join us for a brief introduction on the basics of geocaching and then try your hand at hunting for hidden treasures on the area. GPS units will be provided. (Reservations begin March 2.)

Dresser Island Pelican Walk

March 17 • Sunday • 9 AM–1 PM

(Ages 10 and up)

Conservation makes Missouri not only a great place to hunt and fish, but also gives us the opportunity to enrich our quality of life when we discover nature. Dresser Island on the Mississippi River is a great place to watch for pelicans, eagles, and other spring migrants. We'll walk to the northern end of the island where pelicans congregate and watch for ducks, eagles, hawks, gulls, herons, and trumpeter swans along the way. Dress for the weather. Wear walking shoes that could get muddy. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. Viewing scopes will be provided. We will walk up to 4 miles. (Reservations begin March 3.)

Wetlands by Moonlight

March 22 • Friday • 7–8:30 PM

(Ages 7 and up)

The wetlands at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area serve as a great example of how the Missouri Department of Conservation works to sustain healthy forests, fish, and wildlife. Thousands of migrating waterfowl depend on these wetlands to eat and rest on their long journeys between summer and winter homes. Spring migration is at its peak, and the sounds of ducks and geese mingle with the calling of spring peepers and chorus frogs. We will help you discover the sights and sounds of nature as we walk by the light of the nearly full moon through the wetlands. Be sure to dress for the weather and wear shoes or boots that can get muddy. Meet at the Visitor Center to carpool to the walk site. (Reservations begin March 8.)

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/300

Orienteering: Emphasis on Features of a Topographic Map

March 2 • Saturday • 12–5 PM

(Adults and ages 12–17 accompanied by an adult)

Are you physically fit, looking for a strenuous and challenging off-trail experience? This opportunity will challenge you in learning and applying map interpretation of the land during a 4 to 6 mile, off-trail trek. You will work with our naturalists to read landforms from a topo, such as valleys, saddles, waterways and ridges to find various landmarks, graveyards and historic homesteads in the rugged and steep woods of the Weldon Spring Conservation Area. This naturalist-led program is designed for those who have a working knowledge of an orienteering compass and desire more experience at reading a map to discover unique areas off-trail. This field session is also offered as an opportunity to find so much history in our own Weldon Spring Conservation Area. Effort = Moderate to Strenuous hiking up and down wooded hills. (Reservations begin February 15.)

Silly Squirrels

March 9 • Saturday • 9:30–10:30 AM

(Ages 3–5)

Silly squirrels in your yard are fun to watch. Your preschooler will have fun learning about squirrels through story, craft and games. Note: peanuts will be used during this program and is not intended for children with peanut allergies. (Reservations begin February 22.)

It's Purple Martin Time

March 9 • Saturday • 9:30–11 AM

(Ages 14–adult)

Purple martins are on their way back to the St. Louis area from South America. Are you ready for their arrival? Learn how you can help conserve these beautiful, insect-eating, cavity dwelling swallows that are native to Missouri. You will learn all about purple martin lives and how to establish and manage a colony in your own backyard. Weather permitting, we will also view the housing that a colony of purple martins is using each year at the Busch Visitor Center. (Reservations begin February 22.)

Night Hike: Timberdoodles and Spring Peepers

Two separate sessions available:

March 9 • Saturday • 5–8:30 PM

(Adults)

March 16 • Saturday • 6–9:30 PM

(All Ages)

Experience the sounds of a late winter evening during a moderate hike at Busch. We will listen and watch for timberdoodles (American woodcock) performing their courtship display shortly after sunset. This "nature show" belongs to one of the strangest members of the bird world. Learn how the timberdoodle locates and catches its food. We may also hear and see small frogs called spring peepers performing their courtship songs from the small ponds on the trail. Effort = Easy to Moderate gravel path hiking, 3.2 miles in length. (Reservations begin February 22.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Busy as a Beaver

March 21 • Thursday • 9:30–11 AM

(Ages 7–12)

Beavers are always busy it seems. They are very industrious and seem to never stop cutting down trees and building all kinds of neat stuff. Beavers are by far the largest rodents in North America. They are also a main reason that St. Louis was established here 250 years ago. Around 100 years ago there were virtually no beavers left in our state due to over hunting/trapping and habitat loss. Through a strong conservation effort over many years, they are now thriving once again. Come and learn all about these very interesting and important animals. (Reservations begin March 7.)

Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • mdc.mo.gov/node/272



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Ave. left on Woods Ave., then immediately right on Glencoe RD. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Ave; right on Woods Ave, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Missouri's Native Pollinators

March 10 • Sunday • 2–3:30 PM

(Families)

Join us as we learn about Missouri's native pollinators, their importance to the ecosystem and our daily lives. We'll construct bee boxes (homes for native bees where they can lay their eggs) and discuss the benefits of attracting native bees and pollinators to your backyard garden. (Reservations begin February 22.)



Busy as a Beaver

March 19 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 AM

(Ages 7–12)

Beavers are always busy it seems. They are very industrious and seem to never stop cutting down trees and building all kinds of neat stuff. Beavers are by far the largest rodents in North America. They are also a main reason that St. Louis was established here 250 years ago. Around 100 years ago there were virtually no beavers left in our state due to over hunting/trapping and habitat loss. Through a strong conservation effort over many years, they are now thriving once again. Come and learn all about these very interesting and important animals. (Reservations begin March 5.)



Night Hike: Signs of Spring

March 20 • Wednesday • 7–9 PM

(Ages 8 and up)

Let's go for a night hike to look for the first signs of spring throughout Rockwoods' aquatic habitats. Join us as we take a few hikes as the sun goes down in search of reptiles and amphibians emerging from winter hibernation. Be prepared to get dirty as we explore the area's pond and stream. Please dress for the outdoors and bring a flashlight. Difficulty = Moderate, gravel trail and roadway hiking at night. (Reservations begin March 6.)



Early Spring Blooms

March 23 • Saturday • 8:30 AM–11:30 PM

(Adults)

Come explore the Rock Quarry Trail to discover early blooming trees and wildflowers. You will learn skills to identify plants by their leaves as well as flowers. Effort = Mild to Moderate, 2.2 mile gravel trail hiking up and down wooded hills at a slow pace. (Reservations begin March 8.)

The 2013 TreeKeepers

program, presented by Forest ReLeaf of Missouri and sponsored in part by the Missouri Department of Conservation, educates citizens about trees, their benefits and care, and provides practical, hands-on learning in six key areas: identification, biology, soils, planting, pruning, and insects and diseases. Graduates are asked to provide 24 hours of volunteer service to Forest ReLeaf or in forestry-related projects in their community. **For more information & registration, contact Forest ReLeaf at 314-533-5323 or info@moreleaf.org.** Classes will meet at Powder Valley Nature Center from 1–3 PM on the following dates: 3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25. The final class will be held at CommuniTree Gardens in Maryland Heights on 5/2 (weather permitting).